

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Preschool Lessons, Phase 2 – Lesson 26
The Raising of Lazarus (John 11:38-44)

Theme: The Lord Does a Miracle

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The Lord alone effects the withdrawing of the spirit from the body. (HH 445-452)
The Lord taught that He alone has this power when He raised Lazarus from the grave and said, "I am the resurrection and the life."

- B. The Lord's miracles of raising people from the dead represent the raising from the spiritual death of a false and evil state. The rising of the sisters and their going to the Lord shows the need for us to do our part in coming out of grief and seeking the Lord's comfort. (AC 2935)

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduce the Story
 - 1. Lazarus was someone who loved Jesus and believed in Him. He was the brother of Mary and Martha.
 - 2. Lazarus died. Everybody was sad that he died and they thought that they would never see him again.
 - 3. When the Lord came to the place that Lazarus was buried, Mary and Martha were crying, and seemed to be angry with the Lord that he wasn't there to save Lazarus before he died.
 - 4. But the Lord had not forgotten them, and could still save Lazarus.
 - 5. We will read today what happened when the Lord arrived at the tomb.

- B. Tell/Read the Story
 - 1. John 11:38-44

- C. Ideas to Discuss
 - 1. What was the name of the man who died? (Lazarus)
 - 2. What were his sisters' names? (Mary & Martha)
 - 3. How long had Lazarus been dead before the Lord came? (Four days)
 - 4. How did everyone feel at the grave? (Sad)
 - 5. Did they think the Lord could do a miracle? (No, they thought it was too late)
 - 6. The tomb that Lazarus was buried in was a cave with a stone in front of it. What did Jesus say to do with the stone? ("Take away the stone")
 - 7. What miracle did the Lord do then? (He yelled, "Lazarus come forth!" and Lazarus came out of the tomb)
 - 8. What was Lazarus wearing? (Grave clothes and his face was wrapped in a cloth)

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D. Further Ideas

1. The Lord does not bring people back to life in this earth anymore. But He does bring everyone back to life in the other world!
2. Nobody dies and stops living. We all live forever, and if we love the Lord we can live with Him forever in heaven.
3. Mary and Martha were sad when their brother Lazarus died because they thought they would never see him again. But we can be happy because we know that when our friends and family die we can see them again in heaven.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

B. Activities

1. Act out the story. Have all the children lie down on the floor. They will be Lazarus. Read the story again, and when you say that the Lord said "Lazarus come forth!" they all get up. Suggest that this might be like waking up in the morning, and it would be like waking up in heaven. Perhaps everyone could lie down again, and this time act out waking up in heaven. Because, just like Lazarus, we are all brought back to life again by the Lord - in Heaven!

C. Project

1. Sad face, happy face
 - a. Materials needed: paper plates, markers, glue, straws or sticks, masking tape, and text slips.
 - b. Before class cut out eye holes in plates, and make text slips
 - c. In class, the children draw a happy face on one side of the plate, and a sad face on the other side.
 - d. Glue or tape a stick or straw on to the plate for a handle.
 - e. Text slip for the sad side of the plate: "Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping..." John 11:33
 - f. Text slip for the happy side of the plate: "Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out! ... Take off his grave clothes and let him go." John 11:43-44

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2. The gravesite scene
 - a. Materials needed: paper plates, brass fasteners, markers, white paper, markers, text slips
 - b. Before class cut grave openings in plates. Cut circles out of white paper and draw a square about the size of the grave opening.
 - c. In class the children draw Lazarus on the white circles, in the penciled in box. Be sure to point out which way is the top (the rounded part of the circle so Lazarus doesn't come out upside-down).
 - d. Each child decorates a plate to be a grave, with stones and shrubs around the pre-cut hole.
 - e. With the brass paper fastener, attach the circle to the back of the plate. When Jesus calls "Lazarus come forth!" turn the circle so Lazarus shows through the grave-hole in the plate.
 - f. Text slip: Jesus called in a loud voice "Lazarus come forth! ...Take off his grave clothes and let him go."

IV. Teaching Aids

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus come forth!
...Take off his grave clothes and let him go."

(John 11:43-44)

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